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SOURCE Scanteia.CREATION OF AGITATION POINTS IN RUMANIA

[Comment: This report presents information on the creation of agitation centers in Rumania, formed to give the people orientation on the new constitution, as well as on the general elections of November 1952.

Some cities carried on their agitation work through the FDP (Popular Democratic Front). This political organization nominally an opposition party, was initially created during the general elections of 1948 to carry on political agitation among the people. Although no mention was made of the FDP from 1948 to 1952 in the press available in FDD, the organization came into prominence once again during the summer of 1952 to take the lead in the agitation work for the 1952 general elections. The cities where agitation work was reported are listed alphabetically.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

Arad

On 9 August, the Bucharest daily newspaper Scanteia said the following about agitation in Arad (summary): The most important agitation point in Arad is located in one of the buildings of the 30 December Enterprises. The agitation center is furnished with radios, books, magazines, pamphlets, and newspapers in both the Rumanian and Hungarian languages. Large panorama photographs of workers' achievements are displayed on the walls. A 7-day schedule of agitation work is posted directly in front of the entrance to the center. This schedule announces the presentation of a motion picture entitled "The Fight for Freedom of the Korean People" (1)

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On 15 August, the same source reported on agitation in Braila as follows (summary): The latest agitation point to be opened in Braila is in the modern People's Council Building of that city. A 10-day schedule was arranged under the direction of deputy Otonel Neamtu, artist at the State Theater of Braila. The deputy conducted a series of lectures on the assistance given by the state to science and art in Rumania (2).

Bucharest

Scanteia said the following about agitation in Bucharest (summary): The FDP of Bucharest organized 252 agitation points, 110 which are in the residential sectors of the city and the remaining 152 at enterprises and institutions. These agitation points were visited by approximately 10,000 citizens (3).

In addition to these centers of agitation, Bucharest also has 315 FDP circles, operated by approximately 3,600 agitators. Housewives, pensioners, small merchants, and others form discussion groups of 10 to 20 families. Agitators are then dispatched to visit each family of the group to teach it the sections of the new constitution (4).

By far the greatest agitation work is performed at industrial institutions. For example, regular instruction is given at the Republica Steel Plant, Public Food Supply Trust, Brantovenesc Hospital, and other institutions of V. I. Lenin Raion. Agitators of this raion have a twofold duty: to indoctrinate the workers in enterprises and to beautify and modernize the parks, homes, and public buildings of the raion (1).

Despite such intense efforts, there still remains much room for improvement. Several primary party organizations showed a lack of care in the organization of political work. For example, on 31 July 1952, 180 agitators from the Vulcan Machinery and Equipment Plant were scheduled to make a house-to-house campaign in the vicinity of the plant. Two days prior to the campaign, the party committee of Lenin Raion was instructed to assign the names of the streets which had to be visited by the factory employees. However, because of gross negligence, the committee failed to turn over these names to the agitators until a short time prior to their departure. Because of this delay, only a handful of the 180 agitators found it possible to start their visiting tour (5).

Cluj

On 7 August, the same paper reported on agitation in Cluj as follows (summary): The agitators in the city of Cluj are specially selected from those members who speak both the Hungarian and Rumanian languages. Workers' homes are visited on every street to insure that every family is properly indoctrinated (5).

Craiova

Scanteia also detailed agitation activity in Craiova as follows (summary): Numerous enterprises in Craiova organized local bureaus of the FDP to train activists, representatives, and other party workers. The following members were chosen at the Electroputere Electrical Equipment Plant: Gheorghe Marculescu, secretary of the party committee; Gheorghe Tranca, secretary of the enterprise committee; Stakhanovites Constantin Teodorovici, Constantin Voicila and Aurel Gasca; technician Ion Logofatu, and many others. These members form the local FDP branch and devote their time exclusively to interesting the workers in the new constitutional provisions (4).

- 2 -

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At the 7 Noembrie Plant, new members were likewise elected to the local bureau of the FDP. These were lathe operators Ion Terziu and Ilie Nisipeanu; Stakhanovite Constantin Puica; smelter Pavel Nitov, and technician Gheorghe Nitu. (4)

Agitation point No 1 at CFR (Rumanian Railroads) Craiova is visited daily by 150-200 workers; likewise, centers No 1 and 4 in nearby Bailesti are visited every day by 50-60 peasants. Lectures are also given at the Vasile Roaita Cultural Home on the following topics: "The Rights and Duties of the Rumanian Citizen," "Work Is an Honorable Activity," "The Creation of the Hungarian Autonomous Regime," and "Equality Under the Law for the Rumanian Woman." (6)

Every nearby village arranges weekly discussion groups on the new constitution. Almaju village in particular was exceptionally thorough in its work. All fences and walls of this village were lined with articles and pictures prepared by the FDP. (6)

Galati

Scanteia of 5 August reported on agitation in Galati as follows (summary): After completing a course of instruction of over 100 new propagandists, the city council of Galati established a rigid agitation schedule for fall 1952. From a group of over 2,300 agitators, 300 were selected and divided into two groups. These groups were dispatched every Sunday into Galati, Bujoru, and Malcanesti raions to distribute the latest directives. The remaining agitators were assigned to work in the 53 agitation points of Galati, which are located in the cultural centers, clubs, and such heavily frequented areas as the railroad station, city hall, and town square. (4)

Hunedoara

The same source covered agitation in Hunedoara as follows (summary): Numerous meetings took place throughout Hunedoara Regiune to establish the local committees of the FDP. Consequently, committees were set up in eight cities and 108 communes for the purpose organizing agitation points. As late as 2 August 1952, five points were organized in Lupeni, Hunedoara, Alba, Deva, and Benic. (7)

Lupeni held a festival in honor of the opening of the first agitation point. The event was attended by many local dignitaries, such as Stakhanovites Ioan Demian and Adam Maxim, technicians Avram Dutu and Toma Hategan, and leading agitators such as Elisabeta Dobroschi and Elisei Chisu. (7)

At the same time, discussions were held concerning the duties of agitators in connection with the constitution. The plan of agitation was discussed for 20 consecutive days, and, in essence, it called for individual consultation with the people, conferences, radio auditions, and various cultural activities. (7)

Iasi

On 12 August, the same source said the following about agitation in Iasi (summary): The peace committees in the city of Iasi strive to popularize the new constitutional project. Throughout the enterprises and institutions of the city, the subject most discussed was that of peace. Particular emphasis was given to the introductory chapter of the constitution, pertaining to the external affairs of Rumania. (6)

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Ploesti

Scanteia's report about agitation in Ploesti was published as follows (summary): The regiune council of the FDP in Ploesti organized 700 agitation points throughout the regiune, in order to draw a larger number of workers into discussion groups. Each agitation point is supplied with pamphlets containing the constitutional text and related statutes. All points condense their activities into a 7-day period, which has proved a considerable success. The Brezea agitation point, for example, had 350 visitors during the course of one day. (5)

By far the leading agitation center of Ploesti Regiune is located at the Urlati Oil Field. The drillers of this enterprise meet regularly to praise the achievements of the new regime and to criticize former conditions. Article 79 of the constitution, guaranteeing old-age pensions to workers, is especially emphasized at all meetings. (8)

City of Stalin

The same paper on 9 August also covered agitation in the city of Stalin as follows (summary): A new type of agitation, visual agitation, was initiated for the first time at the Bela Brainer Hardware Plant in Stalin.

Rally slogans and extracts from the new constitution are published in all sections. Large-size cartoons are adapted from the press. Letters written by workers and technicians, as well as pictures and charts, are constantly posted. Motion-picture programs form the largest portion of the visual agitation program of this city. (1)

SOURCES

1. Scanteia, 9 Aug 52
2. Ibid , 15 Aug 52
3. Ibid , 8 Aug 52
4. Ibid , 5 Aug 52
5. Ibid., 7 Aug 52
6. Ibid., 12 Aug 52
7. Ibid., 2 Aug 52
8. Ibid , 19 Aug 52

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